

SECURE COMMONWEALTH PANEL

September 12, 2007

State Capitol

ATTENDANCE

Bruce Benson, Paula Burnette, Eric Casey, Bob Crouch, Cathie Hutchins, Senator R. Creigh Deeds, Kay Goss, David Smith, Kelly Hobbs, Ralph Davis, Jim Horton, Delegate Algie Howell, Dan Jenkins, John Knapp, Greg Lucyk, Dario Marquez, H.C. Davis, Dr. Marcus Martin, Leigh Middleditch, Mike Neuhard, Delegate John O'Bannon, Jeffrey Rezin, Norris Royston, Delegate Beverly Sherwood, Chief Henry Stanley, Gail Jaspen, Regina Williams.

WELCOME

Bob Crouch (Chairman) opened the meeting at 10:00 a.m. by welcoming panel members and noted the meeting was being held in the newly renovated Virginia State Capitol. Mr. Crouch introduced Rich Sliwoski from the Department of General Services and thanked him for his role in leading the Capitol renovations.

Mr. Sliwoski gave a brief overview of the history of the Capitol, the renovation challenges and decorating the Capitol based on historical data (both forensic and historical).

EVACUATION & SHELTERING UPDATE BY MICHAEL CLINE

Michael Cline, State Coordinator of the Department of Emergency Management (VDEM), provided an overview of the status of hurricane evacuation and sheltering activities in the Commonwealth. Please review Mr. Cline's PowerPoint. Below are discussion points and questions from panel members.

- In response to a question on the Commonwealth's evacuation plan, Mr. Cline stated that the plan is in final draft and is expected to be on the VDEM website shortly. One of the major issues discussed regarding sheltering is the increased role the state will play. * Note: A copy of the draft will be sent to the members through Wendy.
- In response to a question on the role of church shelters, Mr. Cline advised that Virginia Voluntary Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD) are a faith-based and private non-profit group that works with churches on the issue of sheltering.
- A panel discussion ensued about the role of pharmacies and drug programs during and after a disaster. Virginia is working on solving the challenge of maintaining such programs and the handling of health records in the event of an evacuation.
- Mr. Cline discussed the City of Richmond-City of Norfolk Memorandums of Understanding as a best practice. The plan is for all Norfolk to evacuate including military personnel and their families. Military families are authorized reimbursement of lodging and meal costs, so families have an incentive to evacuate

- How mandatory is a mandatory evacuation? Mr. Cline advised that there are few cases where force was used to make individuals leave their homes. Other methods are more convincing such as marking yourself for body identification, etc. Is there a database for these people who do not leave? Mr. Cline stated there is no formal program; however, localities do send local enforcement around and some police offices do ask for their next of kin information.
- The panel discussed the evacuation of the inmate population. In the past, inmates from state facilities have been evacuated; however, not from local jails. Do we expect to have fixed by next season? Mr. Cline advises there is no timeline.
- How many do you really think will evacuate from Tidewater, 700,000 seems low? Mr. Cline stated generally 600,000 or less tend to evacuate historically. We could have 1.4M total. How many can you move? Mr. Cline advised with 27 hours about 700,000 with lane reversal.
- Is resource allocation support for shelters in the detailed plan? Mr. Cline discussed the coordination with the private sector (Lowe's, Wal-Mart, Home Depot) on such things as fuel supplies. We have moved away from resource storage to state contracts for provisions. Outfitting shelters with generators relies on funding.
- Are we working with adjacent states? Mr. Cline advises all states are signatories on the Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC), which is a congressionally ratified organization that provides form and structure to interstate mutual aid. Through EMAC, a disaster impacted state can request and receive assistance from other member states quickly and efficiently, resolving two key issues upfront: liability and reimbursement.

Bob Crouch thanked Mr. Cline for his presentation and reminded the members that Virginia is better off than last year but still has room to improve.

CAMPUS PREPAREDNESS BY MARC FOLLMER AND LARRY ROBERTS

Bob Crouch summarized the Governor's Campus Security Conference, which is provided as a handout. The Conference was well attended by 680 professionals in the higher education field and more than 40 vendors providing exhibits on their services. The Virginia Higher Education Preparedness Consortium now has their own web site set up with information on preparedness and the higher education arena. The web site can be found at <http://www.ocp.virginia.gov/vhepc/index.htm>.

Larry Roberts, Counselor to the Governor reviewed the history of the Virginia Tech Panel and expectations

- The Governor's Office appreciated the support the panel received and the space provided to allow the panel members to complete their job. Politics was not an issue in this process of formulating the Virginia Tech Panel; it was a joint effort among the branches of government and all offered resources to the cause. There were 400 people who volunteered to serve on the panel and one member was chosen from that group.

The size of the panel allowed each member to be an expert in a certain area, such as law, health, etc.

- Time was critical and a short timeline for a report was needed for the family members of the victims, but also to allow time for any issues that were raised in the report to go forward to the general assembly.
- The Governor issued Executive Order 53, which gave access to the panel on information from state agencies and brought on legal council.
- The Governor wanted a thorough, hard hitting and objective report. The public response has been good. There are many comprehensive recommendations in the report, which will be taken into consideration.
- It was pointed out that many things went right during the incident based on pre-existing preparedness activities (EMT response, law enforcement plan for active shooter was followed, hospitals praised). There are some communication, family assistance centers, and privacy law issues to be addressed.
- An internal working group has been formed to review all the report recommendations.

Dr. Marcus Martin, a Secure Commonwealth Panelist and a member of the Virginia Tech Panel, commented on the strong background of the panel members in mental health and policy issues, student judicial affairs, and victim advocacy. There was pressure to complete the report on time and be accurate. Virginia Tech was very cooperative and willing to answer any questions. Dr. Martin thanked Larry Roberts and the Governor for their support.

Marc Follmer, Deputy Assistant to the Governor for Commonwealth Preparedness, discussed some of the recommendations in the Virginia Tech Report.

- The full report can be downloaded at www.governor.virginia.gov. Please review for specifics.

The major discussion during this topic was on Chapter 10, mass fatality issues. A recommendation was made for the state to update their plan to include the Mass Fatalities Management Task Force report, which was issued in 2005. This subcommittee report was not made public and the recommendations were not put forward due partly with budget concerns.

A general discussion took place on other findings in the report such as the lack of an Emergency Operation Center to ensure information flow consistency, issues surrounding the family assistance centers and the absence of Public Information Officers during the event. The Medical Examiner's Office was commended for their professionalism and stressed the importance of their participation in interagency drills.

A question was asked about firearm dealers and access to mental health information. The Virginia State Police keep records of involuntary commitments to facilities, but not voluntary commitments. Background checks at gun shows are also a concern.

Lunch Break

HOMELAND SECURITY GRANTS PRESENTATION BY SUSAN MONGOLD

Susan Mongold, Grants Coordinator for the Office of Commonwealth Preparedness, provided an update on the Department of Homeland Security grants. Please review her PowerPoint presentation.

- It was pointed out bi-partisan efforts had resulted in Hampton Roads being named an eligible Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) region. Also, the Department of Homeland Security is encouraging multi-state and multi-UASI grant application projects.
- It was noted that a focus group was formed to look at formulae issues and to give an opportunity for the local government to participate in designing the grant process for 2008.
- The panel discussed the importance of the state setting priorities.
- Bob Crouch expressed his appreciation to Cheryl Atkins and Susan on the increase of grant funds for this year. Last year's grant was \$16.8M and the 2007 award is up to \$25M.

BUSINESS & INDUSTRY SUB-PANEL REPORT BY LEIGH MIDDLEDITCH

Please review the Business & Industry Sub Panel handout on their top 8 target capabilities. Discussed problems of measurement and not being able to spot them until a plan is tested; metrics can be established, but until drills are completed we are unable to determine effectiveness. It was noted that seven critical business partners will be in the Emergency Operations Centers during disasters and able to participate in the annual Virginia Emergency Response Team Exercise. Chambers of Commerce and trade associations' involvement in preparedness efforts is recognized and needed.

OUTREACH SUB PANEL REPORT BY REGINA WILLIAMS

Please review the Outreach handout. The Sub Panel is working on performance measures; however, the tough issue to tackle is how to define preparedness. The Sub Panel reviewed results from a survey taken by the Department of Emergency Management on citizen preparedness. The Sub Panel members are concern with the number of participants who responded to the survey, 800 across state.

The Panel discussed the challenges for citizen preparedness on an all hazards approach. It was pointed out that next May will be a state sales tax break during hurricane preparedness week. It was suggested also needing to look at post event preventative measures, such as generators.

Davis Walsh of the Office of Commonwealth Preparedness offered to the panel members that the Ready Virginia public service announcement have been completed and have aired locally in Virginia.

It was noted that in the Hampton Roads White Pages there is information on preparedness including tips on making your kit and the correct evacuation routes. Maybe this can be done in all phone books across the Commonwealth. Paula Burnett would like to see a copy of these pages for the next meeting.

The Panel members were concerned with better timing of the public service announcements, limited funds and resources, and identifying the right mechanism to get information out to the public. A suggestion was made of using large retailers to fund some preparedness initiatives.

Bob Crouch took this opportunity to welcome two new members to the panel, Kelly Hobbs and Dr. Marcus Martin.

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE SUB PANEL REPORT BY JOHN KNAPP

The Virginia Critical Infrastructure Protection Report (VCIPR) was provided to the Panel and asked for comments. Input has been received and the report is being modified. As we look at performance measurements we need to include others in this process; it goes beyond the Sub Panel members. As we set objectives and standards, we need to be cognizant on our ability to fund these initiatives, such as risk assessments of certain types of critical infrastructure.

FIRST RESPONDER SUB-PANEL REPORT BY CHIEF STANLEY

Please read handout and legislation. The Panel reviewed draft legislation regarding the State Interoperability Executive Committee and voted unanimously to move the legislation forward to the Governor's Policy Office (the motion was moved by Chief Stanley and seconded by Kay Goss).

Discussed performance measures and emphasized interoperability and training as keys. Some concerns noted were interaction with the Fusion Center, improve the flow of information to the private sector, identify Fire Marshals who have sworn police powers so intelligence can be shared with them (such as threat assessments of high profile events like the NASCAR races in Henrico County), establish information flow between critical infrastructure owners and law enforcement and to include participation by private security organizations.

HEALTH AND MEDICAL SUB-PANEL BY DELEGATE JOHN O'BANNON AND BOB MAUSKAPF

The Sub Panel has reviewed the capabilities list and highlighted their other significant events such as having 6 regional hospital coordinating centers around the state, a new volunteer coordinator hired, establishment of 10k doses of flu vaccine for this year's exercises of mass prophylaxis, met with Association of Public Broadcasters on pre-scripted messages on rapid

printing and distribution capability on the Strategic National Stockpile, 770k anti-viral courses purchased and working with pharmacies and the Department of Medical Assistance Services to track.

Bob Mauskopf, Department of Health, discussed the September 4 Cabinet Tabletop Exercise. Please review PowerPoint.

The panel discussed the relevance of the 1918 flu pandemic. A Pandemic Flu Working Group has been formed to look at ethical issues, standards of care, etc. It was noted that John M. Barry's book, The Great Influenza, was a good book to read for an understanding of pandemic flu impacts.

It was noted that the Department of Health's website (www.vdh.virginia.gov/pandemicflu) has regional health department reports online. In addition, Wendy can send monthly pandemic flu reports to the panel members as well.

CLOSING COMMENTS

Bob Crouch noted that the next Panel meeting will be 12 December 2007 with the location to be announced. He also thanked the Panel members, the Commonwealth Preparedness Working Group members and other staff for their participation and support.

Bob Crouch adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.